

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER, Monday, September 29, 1958

*Doris Fleeson is on vacation. Her column will resume upon her return.*

**Fulton Lewis Jr.**

## A Plush Operation!

MUNICH, Sept. 28.

THE brainwashing routine, which Radio Free Europe administrators to the susceptible "leading citizens" whom it brings here, on expense paid junkets from the United States, begins with a briefing room.

It has rows of comfortable chairs and a map of Europe, on which are superimposed, in the course of the sales pitch, a succession of transparent sheets of plexiglass. These, with the aid of special Hollywoodish lighting effects that bring out luminous lines and designs, constitute a series of charts, to illustrate the spiel which the brain-washer is carrying on.

It shows the RFE transmitters in West Germany and Portugal, driving powerful, lightning-like signals to key points behind the Iron Curtain. Unfortunately, it does not show how many people behind the Iron Curtain are receiving those signals, but the spieler paints with a broad brush.

He turns the Communist jamming operations to "advantage" by suggesting that the jamming proves that RFE is doing a damaging and effective propaganda job.

### Questionable

If in fact the RFE broadcasts are being jammed, it is obscure to me what effectiveness there is in broadcasts that cannot be heard even if somebody may want to hear them, which is questionable. The spiel is fast, however, and the spieler is on a new point, before this thought has time to sink in too deeply.

Besides this slight anachronism, the pitch routine constitutes a brave melange of assumptions, speculations, inferences and fiction, roughly as follows:

That because radio programs are broadcast from a transmitter, they are listened to by people with radio receiving sets.

That every escapee who leaves an

Iron Curtain country for the free world does so as a result of Radio Free Europe's propaganda operations.

That the scale model of a section of the Iron Curtain, showing multiple depths of impenetrable barbed wire entanglements, charged, as the spieler relates, with "as much as 12,000 volts of electricity," runs the entire distance of the border between East Germany, the satellite nations and the West. There is a special tour to a nearby section of the real border, from which the model was made, so you can see the real thing with your own eyes.

That somehow, miraculously, escapees are coming through this electrocution maze at the rate of many thousands per day.

That RFE is performing a masterful contribution by clipping Iron Curtain publications and recording Iron Curtain news broadcasts, then cataloguing and filing such information on a newspaper morgue basis. Actually, this is the job of the U. S. Information Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency, so the operation is a double duplication.

That the hack politician refugees whom RFE and its affiliates have collected together and set up as "Councils in Exile" are representative of the people of their respective countries and enjoy the support of those people.

### Beacon—or What?

That Radio Free Europe is a great and shining beacon of Freedom of Speech and of the Press; an example of enlightened liberty, against the black contrast of the controlled and censored press of the Communist world.

This is very inspiring, except that the head of the Polish section of Radio Free Europe, a man named Jan Nowak, is currently suing the Polish language newspaper in London, The London Polish Daily, for criticizing some of Nowak's policies and activities, in his conduct of RFE affairs. The paper also criticized RFE for presenting Nowak as a representative of the thinking of Polish people in exile.

Such is the guiding beacon of free speech here in Munich.

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